

● **BACK JEREMY CORBYN**
● **VOTE LABOUR ON 8 JUNE**



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AFTER MANCHESTER ATTACK

DON'T LET THE RIGHT EXPLOIT HORROR

A HORRIFIC bombing killed 22 people, including five children, as they left a Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena on Monday night.

A further 59 people were injured in what Greater Manchester Police said it is treating as a terrorist attack by a suicide bomber.

Isis described the person who carried out the attack as a "soldier of the caliphate."

And, racists have already begun to whip up division.

It's predictable that some people will seek to scapegoat Muslims and point the finger at migrants—such moves must be rejected and confronted.

As Weyman Bennett from Stand Up To Racism said, "It is vital

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LABOUR PARTY

Mass rallies for Corbyn can pull movement to left

LABOUR LEADER Jeremy Corbyn has spoken to tens of thousands of people across Britain during the last week.

Some 2,000 joined a rally in Birmingham last Saturday, 3,500 in Hull on Monday and up to 1,000 in Scarborough.

These rallies can shape the wider mood in society and help Labour to win on 8 June.

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TORIES



U-turn on social care exposes May's weakness

THERESA MAY announced a juddering U-turn on her party's social care policy on Monday.

Last week she unveiled measures that would force more people to pay for care.

This week she said there would be a cap. Several opinion polls showed the Tories have lost support.

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EDUCATION

College pay strike wins a big victory in Scotland

COLLEGE LECTURERS in Scotland held a victory rally last Saturday after employers "crumbled".

An escalating national dispute forced bosses to honour a pay deal struck 14 months ago.

It shows striking works.

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Don't let the right exploit the horror

Attempts to use the aftermath of the Manchester attack to move politics rightwards need to be resisted

continued from page 1

that we stand together at this time in unity and solidarity against all forms of hatred, division and violence."

But it won't just be far right groups and Ukip that seek to exploit what's happened.

Tory home secretary Amber Rudd said the bombing's "intention was to sow fear, its intention is to divide, but it will not succeed".

But right wing politicians and newspapers are hoping to use it—precisely to sow fear and division.

More armed police officers are already patrolling London, and other major cities across Britain.

Metropolitan Police commissioner Cressida Dick warned this will "continue for as long as it is needed" with a "mixture of armed and unarmed officers."

Her record on responding to terror attacks should make us wary.

After the 7/7 suicide bombings in London, Dick headed the police operation that gunned down Brazilian electrician Jean Charles De Menezes.

Targeting

The operation was part of a bigger police lockdown targeting Muslims—and led to increased levels of Islamophobia.

Calls from the right for more police, more guns and more repressive powers directed at minorities have always followed terror attacks.

After the attack Theresa May said, "We can continue to resolve to thwart such attacks in future—to take on and defeat the ideology that often fuels this violence."

We should be in no doubt what May meant by fighting "the ideology"—ramping up repression against Muslims.

The Tory manifesto claimed, "Extremism, especially Islamist extremism ... undermines the cohesion of our society and can fuel violence". It warned that a Tory government would look into "new



criminal offences" it could make up to "defeat the extremists".

May suspended the Tories' flagging general election campaign, but this hasn't stopped the Tories from outrageously trying to exploit the horrific deaths to bolster it.

Rudd said it was a "barbaric act"—then proceeded to use it for political gain. "The great city of Manchester has been affected by terrorism before," she said, alluding to the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) bombing in 1996.

May joined in during her speech, noting that "it is not the first time Manchester has suffered in this way".

Their comments come after the Tories and right wing press smeared Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn for refusing to "condemn" the IRA last week.

May says "our way of life will prevail", but when the right talk of "our way of life" it is a cover for a false unity behind "British values".

In reality, it is a racist and nationalist stick used to beat Muslims and the left with.

We need to build genuine unity from below—against the right and their attempts to divide us through racism and repression.

And we need to keep fighting to kick out the Tories.



COPS AND emergency services in Manchester on Monday night

PICTURE: PA

People rushed to help each other

by ALISTAIR FARROW

IN THE aftermath of the attack ordinary people rushed to help each other and collectively organise getting people to safety.

Hotel workers opened up rooms to unaccompanied children stranded by the police lock down following the attack.

People used the #roomformanchester hashtag to offer places to stay to people who had been at the concert.

"We have a spare double bed and two sofas available if

anybody needs a place tonight. Salford area, 5 min taxi from arena," said @iamjesyrae on Twitter. "I live 5 mins from the Manchester Arena. I have sofa bed, food/drink and phone chargers if anyone needs any help," tweeted @QHNick.

Numbers of people giving blood also rose sharply after the attack. Queues stretched out of the door at Manchester blood donor centres.

So many people gave blood that donations are no longer needed.

Taxi drivers offered people

free rides away from the arena. AJ Singh told Channel 4 news, "I dropped people off at hospitals."

Alex Davidson from Manchester Trades Council said, "We stand in solidarity with every community in the city."

"We pay tribute to the skilled and professional response of all emergency service workers."

Ordinary people rally together at times of crisis.

Their actions are a million miles away from the hate of the racists and the Sun newspaper and fake calls for national unity with the rich.

Murdoch's attack dogs go after Corbyn

THE BOMBING in Manchester pushed the Sun newspaper to abandon a nasty front page attack on Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The rag had to run the headline: BLOOD ON HIS HANDS, featuring an ex-IRA member attacking Corbyn.

Later it still managed to flash this on the front with the headline, "IRA brute raps Corb".

It said, "An ex-IRA killer says Jeremy Corbyn has blood on his hands—because without his support the terrorist murders would have ended much earlier."

As it happens the former IRA man was an intelligence agent who worked in the IRA for the spooks.



And an editorial went further. "Innocent people were murdered

specifically because Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell sucked up to the IRA," it read.

"The pair at the top of today's Labour Party cheered on the executioners, torturers and child-killers from the safety of Westminster."

"Today they call antisemitic, homophobic terror groups and regimes 'friends'."

"Today they idolise Marxist revolutionaries who bring death and ruin. Why? Because they hate the West, hate Britain."

This bile is an indication of how far the Tories and their backers will go to try and stop Corbyn winning the general election.

Tories' social care U-turn exposes May's weakness

by CHARLIE KIMBER

IF THERESA May does not get the result she wants on 8 June, analysts will say that Monday of this week signalled the turning point.

May announced a juddering U-turn on her party's social care policy.

Announced last Thursday as the centrepiece of the manifesto launch, the policy proved so unpopular and so impossible to defend that it had to be changed.

Last week May unveiled measures that would force more older people to pay for care they receive in their homes.

This week she said there will be a consultation, and a cap on social care costs.

May said this was simply a "clarification" and that "nothing has changed". Yet health secretary Jeremy Hunt had explicitly ruled out a cap last Friday.

Appearing on Radio 4's Today programme, Hunt said the Tories were dropping plans for such a cap and that their manifesto was "explicit" about dropping it.

May blamed "fake claims made by Jeremy Corbyn" for her U-turn. Her lie, one step away from Donald Trump's rants about "fake news", convinced nobody.

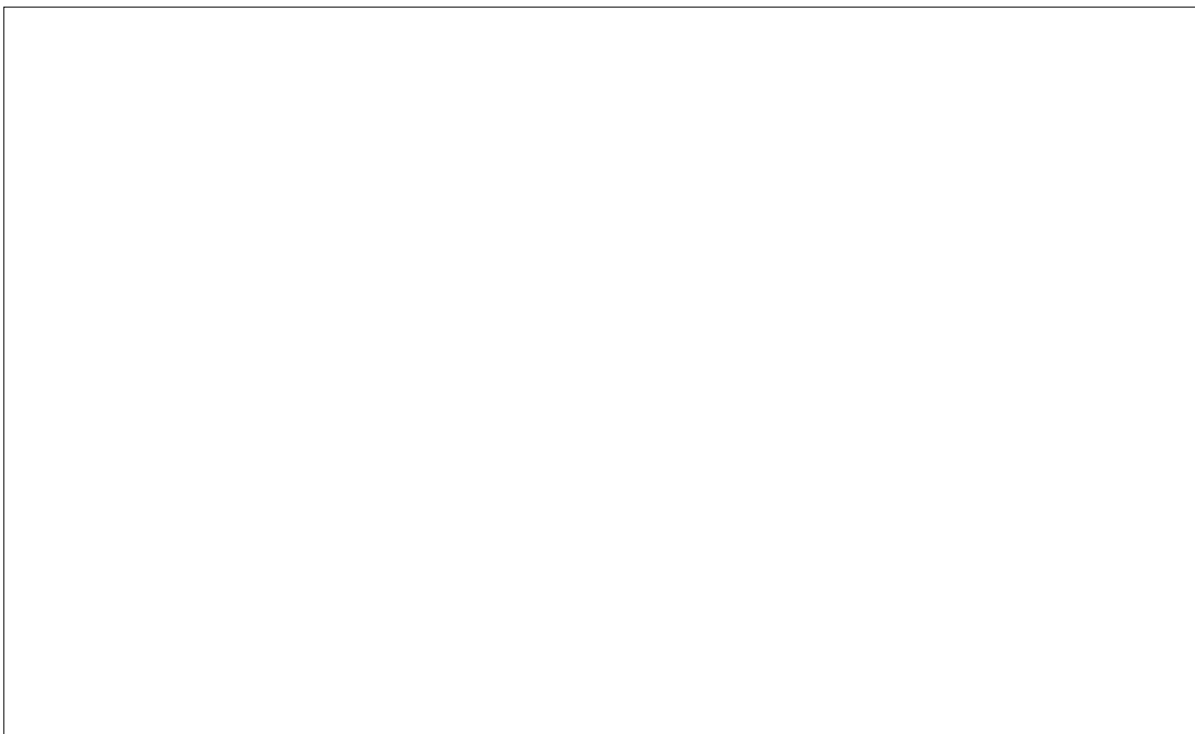
Veteran election expert Sir David Butler tweeted, "In the 20 general election campaigns I've followed, I can't remember a U-turn on this scale."

Stable

"Strong and stable" cannot seriously be used again as May's election slogan.

Before the horrendous bombing in Manchester on Monday evening, the Tories' campaign had been in some trouble for days.

The Labour manifesto was popular, the Tory one staggeringly cruel



May's woes can help Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

and inept. More and more people distrust May for her evasiveness and her arrogant refusal to debate.

Four opinion polls last weekend showed that the gap between the Tories and Labour was closing.

A poll of Welsh voters on Monday

THERESA MAY refused to admit her U-turn when in Wales this week

showed a massive 16-point shift in support towards Labour.

A poll two weeks ago showed Welsh Labour trailing the Tories, but a stunning reversal put Labour ten points ahead.

While Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn speaks to audiences of thousands every day, May has generally remained in her bunker.

Even yesterday's U-turn won't take the heat off the Tories' dementia tax. Soon they will have to say what the level of the cap will be—and who will pay for care if those directly suffering do not.

Will it mean more tax for ordinary workers? And how can that be justified when the richest 1,000 people in Britain are now worth £658 billion and saw their wealth rise by

£83 billion last year? If the Tories can be moved on this, more pressure can make them drop plans to means test pensioners' winter fuel allowance and free school meals.

The Tories have been badly damaged, but they are still in the lead.

However, there is now hope. More radical campaigning can add 8 June 2017 to the list of extraordinary election results in an era when traditional political answers no longer fit.

The point is not to spectate—action by ordinary people can help shape the result.



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IN BRIEF

Oily donations help the Tories

OIL BOSSES have handed the Tories over £390,000 since Theresa May became prime minister.

Three of the donors have attended dinners with May or other senior ministers.

The Tories have promised more support for the industry if elected on 8 June.

Firms plot to protect profits

ENERGY FIRMS are demanding that the Tories water down a plan to cap bills.

Their compromise would see just two million more households benefit from the cap.

Workers suffer record poverty

A RECORD 60 percent of British people in poverty live in a household where someone is in work.

Governments have argued that work ends poverty.

But a study by Cardiff University says the risk of poverty for adults in working families has grown by a quarter over the past decade.

Lynton Crosby hit by scandal

LYNTON CROSBY, Theresa May's election strategist, grabbed £150,000 from a firm in a tax haven.

Crosby is a shareholder of now defunct Rutland Holdings Ltd based in Malta.

It paid out £826,000 in dividends in 2015, when Crosby was working for David Cameron.

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on
www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 **Thousands in Birmingham rally to hear Jeremy Corbyn**
- 2 **The left should take no lectures on Northern Ireland from the Tories**
- 3 **Why did 'soviets' matter?**
- 4 **Scottish lecturers get their bosses telt**
- 5 **Who killed Daniel Morgan? Corrupt cops, journalists and a south London murder**

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Mass rallies for Corbyn can pull the movement leftwards

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

BACK STORY

LABOUR PARTY leader Jeremy Corbyn has spoken to tens of thousands of people across Britain during the last week. It's a sign of the energy behind Labour's campaign, and how his radical policies are enthusing people.

At a 2,000-strong rally in Birmingham ICC concert arena last Saturday, the queue stretched down the street. Hundreds were turned away at the door because they couldn't get into one of Labour's largest rallies of the campaign so far.

Caroline, a Labour supporter at the rally, said she had been convinced to vote Labour because of Corbyn's leadership. "This is the first time in a long time we've got a leader in touch with what ordinary people are thinking," she told Socialist Worker.

"If he gets in, it will transform the way things are done."

Corbyn's speech reflected many supporters' hopes of how a Labour government could build a better society.

Mobilise

After Birmingham, Corbyn headed north for a whistle-stop tour of Merseyside. He urged Labour members to mobilise support for the party at a thousands-strong rally on the South Parade in West Kirby.

Labour took the Wirral West Constituency from the hated Tory minister Esther McVey in the 2015 general election. But Labour MP Margaret Greenwood has a majority of only 417, which means Labour has to mobilise mass support.

In the evening Corbyn received a rapturous reception from 20,000 people as he filled in as The Libertines' warm-up act at the Wirral Live festival.

Around 3,500 packed into Hull city centre to

Mass rallies for Jeremy Corbyn these past weeks are enthusing his Labour supporters

●The Tories' manifesto went down like a lead balloon and lost them support in the polls

●But the orchestrated attacks on Corbyn keep coming from the right of his own party—and the media more generally

●Labour can win by trying to shift the mood in society, not just simply hoping door knocking will be enough. It needs to mobilise

hear Corbyn speak on Monday. Many brandished placards that said, "Make June the end of May".

Earlier that day Corbyn drew up to 1,000 people in Scarborough.

Promises of renationalising rail, funding public services and raising wages in the manifesto have boosted party members' confidence.

Elections aren't simply won by door knocking but by the mood in society—and these sort of mass mobilisations can help shape that mood.

The Tories' unveiling of the full-scale brutality of their plans in their manifesto and Labour's message that there is an alternative have shifted some support.

These rallies show the potential that a more insurgent campaign has, but a bigger shift is needed to beat the Tories.

Many of those at the Birmingham rally saw these sorts of mass rallies as the best way to win. Karl, who came with his two children, told Socialist Worker, "He needs to keep on doing what he's doing, holding rallies and speaking to people."

"Theresa May is doing the opposite and people are getting fed up with it."

Viv agreed, "Corbyn is up against it, but his chances are improving. If I was a Tory voter I would be looking at the protests against Theresa May and be concerned."



CORBYN DREW around 3,500 in Hull on Monday night

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

The left should take no lectures on Northern Ireland from the Tories

THE RIGHT wing papers are going for Jeremy Corbyn for refusing to "condemn" the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Speaking during a BBC interview, Corbyn said he "condemned all those that do bombing, all those on both sides". "There were Loyalist bombs as well, I condemn all the bombing by both the Loyalists and the IRA," he said.

Some left wingers have responded by pointing to former Provisional IRA member Maria Gatland, now a Tory councillor in Croydon, south London. That Gatland was in the IRA is not the Tories' real hypocrisy—or their real crime in Ireland.

The left should take no lectures on Northern Ireland from the Tories. Their record is one of suppressing democracy, stoking sectarianism—and the imprisonment, murder and torture of ordinary people.

Sectarianism is not something that's hard-wired into Northern Ireland, but was built into that

society after Britain was forced to quit the rest of Ireland in 1922.

The Unionists, allies of the Tory party in Ireland, declared that it would be a "Protestant land for Protestant people".

They ran it as a one-party state, where sectarianism was used to terrorise Catholics and also weaken Protestant workers' ability to fight.

Unionist

The "Troubles" erupted in Derry in 1969. While the majority of the population is Catholic, the wards were gerrymandered to maintain Unionist control. But when people began organising to demand their civil rights, cops beat them off the streets.

As rioting spread through Catholic areas, the British Army was sent in to allegedly keep the peace between Catholics and Protestants. In reality, it was part of a brutal and repressive occupation that sided with the Loyalist regime.

The Military Reaction Force (MRF) was a special intelligence

unit of the British Army, operating between 1971 and 1973 in Northern Ireland.

Former soldiers have described it as a "legalised death squad" that killed "unarmed civilians in Belfast".

Military intelligence not only recruited, trained and armed Loyalist death squads—it directed terrorist operations.

A former Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) member, known as "John Black", said the policy was designed to "scare the shit" out of the Catholics.

The British state's repression of the Civil Rights movement fuelled the rise of the IRA. After the Bloody Sunday massacre in 1972, where the Parachute Regiment murdered 14 Civil Rights marchers, the IRA's ranks swelled.

The Tories scuppered potential peace talks in 1972—and continued their brutal policies under Margaret Thatcher.

This was all to maintain the Loyalists' sectarian set up and keep workers divided.

Get out and harangue the Tories, they're weak

ACTIVISTS ARE hitting the streets to build support for kicking out the Tories on 8 June.

In several areas they held joint campaigning days, including people both in and outside the Labour Party.

Around 25 people joined campaigning stalls against the Tories in Camden, north London. Hundreds of leaflets were distributed encouraging people to register to vote—and to vote against racism and austerity.

Organisations supporting it included Labour left group Momentum, Keep Our NHS Public, Defend Council Housing, Stand Up To Racism and Unite Community.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) held a campaigning stall in Croydon, south London, last Saturday.

Croydon was the scene of a recent racist attack.

Activists have agreed to hold another joint day of action next Saturday. They hope to turn it into a street rally in the



Campaigning in Barnsley

PICTURE: DAVE GIBSON

centre of Camden. A similar event in Bolton brought together groups campaigning over the NHS, schools, fracking and racism among others.

Anti-Tory activists also campaigned in Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) held a campaigning stall in Halifax last Thursday, hundreds of people protested outside.

Whenever the Tory leader is forced to speak to ordinary people her campaign runs into difficulty—that's why it's so important to harangue the Tories.

Together SUTR and Muslim group Mend produced 50,000 leaflets urging people to register to vote and

not to vote for racist policies.

More activities are planned this weekend.

Around 100 people joined a foreign policy question time organised by the Stop the War Coalition last Thursday.

And as Theresa May launched the Tories' reactionary manifesto in Halifax last Thursday, hundreds of people protested outside.

Whenever the Tory leader is forced to speak to ordinary people her campaign runs into difficulty—that's why it's so important to harangue the Tories.

Labour should dump Trident

THE Labour right continue to undermine a radical campaign—and push Jeremy Corbyn to compromise.

The latest fight was over Trident nuclear weapons, which Labour has committed itself to renewing at the behest of the right.

Shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry said last Friday that she was "sceptical" about the Trident nuclear missile programme and it could be subject to a review if Labour wins the election.

This was immediately rejected by shadow defence secretary Nia Griffith, who said the party was "fully committed" to having a nuclear deterrent and that Thornberry was wrong.

Griffith had previously said it was "absolutely vital" for politicians to be

willing to use Trident.

Corbyn was forced into saying that the "manifesto makes it very clear that the Labour Party has come to a decision and is committed to Trident".

Trying to unite with the right and making compromises like this will only undermine Corbyn's message and his chances.



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Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

EVERY DAY WITHOUT DEBATE ONLY HELPS MAY

THE FIRST reaction from people to the horror in Manchester was shock and sympathy for the victims and their families.

Many joined vigils and other gatherings expressing their solidarity with those affected.

Stand Up To Racism stated its solidarity, and also its opposition to any racist division in the wake of the attack.

Political parties, trade unions and others suspended campaigning on Tuesday.

But it would be a mistake to allow this appalling act to take the attention away from politics and the election.

In particular Theresa May must not be allowed to escape from the crisis her campaign fell into over social care on Monday.

Every day without sharp political debate benefits only the Tories. Every day without criticism and political clashes gets the Tories one day closer to 8 June unscathed.

We need to savage the Tories, not show them respect.

It is not difficult to guess what discussions took place in the Tories' inner circle.

Blunt

The advice from the likes of spin doctor Lynton Crosby would have been to talk about "national unity" to blunt class division.

To refuse to talk about matters like social care, to condemn terrorism at every opportunity—and to seek to link Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn with alleged softness on terrorists in the past.

The very unsubtle subtext will be that Corbyn can't be trusted to oppose and stop such horrors as the Manchester bombing.

The Sun newspaper has already done this. The Tories will follow.

We should not allow such disgusting manoeuvres to succeed. The message needs to go out



Be vigilant to stop state clampdowns

loud and strong—Labour can win the election and it mustn't stop fighting.

May's dementia tax revealed the brutal heart of Tory policy, but one partial U-turn hasn't made the Tories or their policies any nicer.

We need to campaign to push them under.

Labour must keep encouraging mass mobilisations. The monster rallies that Corbyn is holding must be continued and built bigger.

They are giving energy and confidence to thousands of people every day. They are starting to create an army of activists who can take the arguments against the Tories into

May's dementia tax revealed the brutal heart of the Tory party's policies

workplaces and colleges, at the bus stop, the supermarket queue and the school gate.

This is Labour's hope.

We reject the argument that there is something wrong with being angry and confrontational after the bombing.

What's wrong is being cowed into letting the Tories off the hook.

Be angry over the callous disregard for older people who will lose the winter fuel allowance. And for the snatching away of free school meals, cuts in education and the wrecking of the NHS.

Politics matters in another sense. The appalling bombing in Manchester is one event in a series of horrors sparked by wars and interventions in the Middle East.

Linked

It is linked to the millions who have died or been made refugees by more than 15 years of the "war on terror". They include many young people like those who lost their lives in Manchester.

As long as these imperialist wars continue there will be a response.

The Tories, who criticise Corbyn for being reluctant to immolate the world through the use of nuclear weapons, will bring more wars and more bombings.

Their alliance with US president Donald Trump reveals the hypocrisy of their calls for peace.

Only fundamental political change can do away with a world of exploitation, racism, war and environmental catastrophe.

Let's use the days left before the election to ram home the message that we don't have to live in a world ruled by the dictates of profit and power.

We don't have to keep quiet. Keep campaigning, keep resisting, keep shouting against the Tories.

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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Tony Cliff matters for socialists today

TONY CLIFF was born 100 years ago last weekend, on 20 May 1917. Brought up a Palestinian Jew, he came to Britain in 1946.

This was two years before the proclamation of the State of Israel, which as an anti-Zionist and an internationalist he opposed. In Britain he founded and led the Marxist group that eventually became the Socialist Workers Party (SWP).

As a member of the SWP central committee, I worked with Cliff for more than 20 years. He had an extraordinary personality, a unique combination of intellect, determination, charm, humour, and sheer force of character.

But why should anyone who didn't know him care about Cliff now, nearly 20 years after his death in April 2000?

The answer lies partly in his theoretical contribution. In the late 1940s Cliff developed a path-breaking analysis of the Soviet Union. He argued that far from being socialist or (as Leon Trotsky contended) a "degenerated workers' state", Stalinist Russia was a variant of capitalism—bureaucratic state capitalism.

The ruling bureaucracy exploited the working class as private bosses did in Britain and the US. Military competition with the West subjected Russia to the logic of capitalist accumulation that Marx had uncovered in Capital.

But Cliff didn't just offer theory. Compare him with another brilliant Jewish Marxist intellectual born in 1917 who made Britain his home. Eric Hobsbawm was a great historian, but he apologised for orthodox Communism, helped to open the door to New Labour, and accepted an appointment as Companion of Honour from the queen.

Cliff by contrast renewed the revolutionary Marxism tradition politically. If the Stalinist despotism was state capitalist, then Marx's conception of self-emancipation of the working class was still a living reality.

Cliff embraced the slogan, "Neither Washington nor Moscow but International Socialism". In other words, the Cold War was a struggle between rival imperialist powers, not between capitalism and socialism. So, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the SWP and its sister organisations elsewhere were able to flourish and grow.

Strategy

Cliff was above all determined to translate Marxist theory into a revolutionary political organisation. During the 1970s he wrote a four-volume biography of Lenin that is a toolbox of revolutionary strategy and tactics.

This was the decade when the class struggle reached its highest pitch in postwar Europe and North America.

In Britain a powerful shop stewards' movement confronted and broke the Tory government of Ted Heath in 1970-74. Cliff threw all his energy into forging radicalised students and workers into the basis of a mass revolutionary party that could help shape the battles to come.

Alas, we saw after Heath's fall, not escalating worker combativity, but a Labour government acting as chloroform.

Shop stewards' organisation became increasingly bureaucratised and integrated into trade union officialdom and corporate structures. This meant that Margaret Thatcher confronted a much weaker workers' movement when she launched her offensive after winning the May 1979 election.

Cliff was among the very first to spot these trends.

This allowed the SWP to prepare for and survive the agony of Thatcherism. But this didn't make the climactic confrontation between the Thatcher government and the National Union of Mineworkers any less painful or difficult.

Cliff spent the rest of his life under the rule of the Tories and of Thatcher's apprentice Tony Blair. He reacted enthusiastically to every political opening both in Britain and abroad. And he worked tirelessly to pass the heritage of revolutionary Marxism on to new generations.

What I learned from him above all was revolutionary persistence. I said to him in 1990, "Thank God the 1980s are over." Cliff just looked at me and said, "You should have been around in the 1950s." In far harsher circumstances than the years of defeat under Thatcher, at the height of the Cold War, he had built a tiny Marxist group that could grow when new movements developed.

In all sorts of ways the political situation now is very different from those of Cliff's lifetime. But we can still learn from his theoretical contribution and practical example.



PROTESTERS IN Bristol (above) and Sheffield (below)

PICTURES: SOCIALIST WORKER AND NEIL TERRY

Thousands join protests to stop funding cuts in schools

by TOMÁŠ TENGEY-EVANS

ANGER AT Theresa May's plan to slash billions from schools' budgets burst onto the streets of Bristol last Saturday.

Over 5,000 parents, pupils, teachers and their supporters joined a demonstration organised by the NUT teachers' union and parents' groups.

They were marching against "fair funding" plans that will snatch £3 billion from schools in England every year by 2020.

Chants of "No ifs, no buts, no education cuts" rang out as the march made its way through the city centre.

Protests also took place in Sheffield and Manchester. At least 200 people from more than 32 schools marched in Manchester chanting, "Save our schools, save our teachers."

In Sheffield shoppers clapped in support as protesters sang, "If you're defending education clap your hands".

Suffer

Parent Caz joined the march in Bristol with her two children. "My children will suffer if these cuts go through," she told Socialist Worker.

"The number of bigger classes will get even higher, there'll be fewer teachers and less after school clubs."

"My daughter goes to after schools clubs, but what will

people do if they go? Working people rely on them."

Manchester parent Verity Walker said, "It is going to be harder for my child to get the education they need. There will be less teaching assistants and less support."

Schools are already in the grip of a funding crisis. Bristol parent Tony said, "In the area where we are two secondary schools have already sent a letter asking parents to set up direct debits for funding."

"They're taking opportunities away from our children."

School support workers



Strikes can beat May

AROUND 150 people braved the pouring rain in central London to rally against education cuts last Thursday.

Local NUT union groups had called the event. Protesters weren't fooled by Theresa May's pledge to put £4 billion into schools.

NUT national executive member Stefan Simms told Socialist Worker that £3 billion of the money had

"already been spent".

Ellie is the chair of the London Young Teachers Network. "At my school we've already lost a full time teacher, a teaching assistant and bilingual support staff," she told Socialist Worker.

Mike from Redbridge stressed that the cuts can be beaten. "It will start with single schools taking action, but it needs to spread from that," he said. "There needs to be something stronger from the national union that can stop the cuts."



A protester

face the brunt of the cuts.

Gianna, a school support worker, said, "Support staff make a big difference to children's education, but lots have already been cut."

The cuts narrow down the curriculum as subjects are axed.

Lilly, a school student, told Socialist Worker, "I can't take two out of three of the subjects I want for A Levels."

"They don't care about the creative subjects, but that's an important part of education."

At the closing rally in Bristol parent Huw Williams said, "We had a little meeting of 65 people to begin with and now we've got thousands and thousands on the streets."

Also on Saturday hundreds of angry protesters took to the streets of Totnes in Devon against the funding cuts.

The march was organised by parents and supporters from the town's King Edward VI College.

"The march collected new members as it made its way up the street. Local traders came out to give their support, one even handing out ice cream to protesters as they passed," devonlive.com reported.

Further protests were planned this week in Camden, north London, Tower Hamlets, east London, and in Newcastle on Saturday—12.30pm, Grey's Monument.

Thanks to Chris Ayton and Jennifer Dunston. For a longer version go to bit.ly/2qGLz8z

Pro-choice protesters block demo by bigots

Anti-abortion bigots didn't reckon on a counter protest blocking their 'March for Life' in Birmingham

PRO-CHOICE protesters stopped anti-abortionists from marching in Birmingham last Saturday.

The bigots had come together for a national protest, congregating in the city's Victoria Square. They mobilised some 1,300 compared to last year's 1,200.

The confidence given to the anti-abortion movement in the US by the election of Donald Trump, has not necessarily crossed to the anti-abortion movement in Britain.

The keynote speaker for the anti-abortionists was Lila Rose, head of US anti-choice organisation Live Action.

The group's activity has led to a loss of some £47 million in funding to the US pro-choice Planned Parenthood organisation.

Rose has previously said, "We need you encouraging your friends to make sure they don't have abortions, helping them stand up for chastity."

But the pro-choice movement can take heart from the resistance to the bigots. Some 300 people blocked their way for over an hour in the grounds of Birmingham cathedral.

Chief executive of Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid Maureen Connolly told the protest, "These people say they're celebrating life. What they're really doing is making life a misery for women."

Mobilised

The pro-choice demonstration was supported by the local trades council and NUT teachers' union members brought the national union banner.

The lecturers' UCU union also mobilised and brought a banner.

NUT president Louise Regan said, "Women don't have a choice at the moment in England."

"Two doctors have to sign confirmation for an abortion to be authorised."

"It's unacceptable."

Anti-abortion group Life campaigns against access to safe, legal abortions and supported the 'March for life' protest. It recently

BACK STORY

Last Saturday anti-abortionists planned to march in Birmingham

●The anti-abortion groups' 'March for Life' was blocked by pro-choice protesters

●The group 'Life' is an anti-abortion organisation

●Life received £250,000 of funding from the money raised from the Tories' infamous tampon tax

●Some 47,000 women die each year from unsafe abortions

received £250,000 of funding from the VAT raised from the infamous "tampon tax".

The Tories want to roll back the clock on the limited gains the 1967 Abortion Act introduced.

Illegal

In Northern Ireland the punishment for illegal abortions is life in prison. In Ireland it's 14 years.

Polly Barklem from the London Irish Abortion Rights campaign told Socialist Worker, "The legal barriers in place do not prevent abortions."

"They only increase the difficulty."

Women from Ireland have to pay as much as £1,700 to access safe abortions abroad. This hits poorer women hardest.

Personal wealth should not determine whether you live or die as the result of an unwanted pregnancy.

Bridget Parsons from Birmingham People's Assembly spoke to the crowd. "These people say they're pro-life, but we shouldn't let them use that term," she said.

"Forty seven thousand women die every year worldwide because of unsafe abortions."

"These people are not pro-life—they are pro-death."



On other pages...

Why 'soviets' mattered in the Russian Revolution >>Pages 14&15

A DIE in staged in protest against the anti-abortion 'March for Life' in Birmingham

PICTURE: @POLLYBARKLEM

ECONOMY

Real wages are falling and inequality is on the rise after bosses cut corners

IT'S OFFICIAL—PRICES are now rising faster than wages, which means real wages are falling.

Average regular weekly pay in the three months to March was 0.2 percent lower than a year ago after taking account of the rate of inflation.

Inflation subsequently accelerated in April, which suggests the squeeze on pay is likely to intensify in the coming months.

The latest official forecasts suggest the average worker in Britain will earn less in 2021 than they did in 2008.

Inequality is also expected to

increase in the next few years because the benefits that top up the incomes of low-paid workers have been frozen in cash terms.

Meanwhile, companies in Britain are holding down wages to shore up pension schemes rather than take the money from shareholders, executives or profits, new research has shown.

Deficits

Many private sector pension schemes have deficits because companies took "pension holidays" where they either paid in nothing or failed to pay in enough.

The Resolution Foundation

reported this week that during the last 16 years an average 10 percent of the money paid into schemes that offer a guaranteed payout came from suppressing wages.

Research earlier this year showed that nearly half of Britain's top 100 companies could have cleared their entire pension deficits with the payment of just one year's dividends that are paid to their shareholders.

The companies in the FTSE 100 index handed out £69 billion to shareholders, more than five times the £13 billion they made in pension contributions.

Police won't stop knife crime

A SERIES of tragic deaths from stabbings has highlighted the issue of "knife crime" in London.

Thirteen people have died in one three-week spell, including four teenagers.

The police's only response is more stop and search—which targets the working class and in particular young black people.

Nicky Hill, a youth violence consultant based in Lambeth, said, "Knife crime is the symptom of more deep-rooted societal issues, which we seem to be insisting on ignoring."

Temi Mwale from 4Front, a

social enterprise that works with young people in Tottenham, said, "We can't just keep rolling out stop and search as the only kind of viable solution, because it's a suppression tactic."

She added, "You can take the knives. But if the threat of being violently attacked and the fear it creates remains, young people will still arm themselves."

AOPM, the professional association of volunteers supporting young offenders, said, "Stop and search as a 'solution' cannot be detached from the negative history of policing BME communities."

Police are increasing 'stop and search'



Renewed resistance to Trump can wound crisis-ridden bigot

Donald Trump is still reeling from sacking FBI chief James Comey. US activists can take advantage of these divisions, argues **Alistair Farrow**

PRESSURE ON Donald Trump's rotten presidency increased last week with growing calls for his impeachment.

Trump admitted on live TV that "this Russian thing" was on his mind when he sacked former FBI secret police director James Comey.

Comey had been investigating alleged collusion between Trump advisors and Russian officials.

This is a division between sections of the US ruling class, but it can create openings for the resistance from below.

Comparisons have been drawn between Trump and Richard Nixon, the US Republican president who was forced to resign. While both faced a political crisis, there are important differences.

Nixon jumped ship before the Democratic party-controlled House of Representatives and Senate could impeach him for the Watergate scandal. Today the Republicans control both houses of the US Congress.

Hated

If Trump were to go he would be replaced by vice president Mike Pence—but Pence is hated too.

Around 150 students walked out of their graduation ceremony at Indiana's Notre Dame University when he was giving a speech last Sunday.

Other Republican politicians faced lively protests at town hall meetings, including being chased down by people in cars.

Trump is pushing through his assault on working class people. In the latest attack, the Trump administration is threatening to take

BACK STORY

Donald Trump is under fire for sacking FBI secret police director James Comey

- Trump has admitted that Comey investigating Trump advisers' alleged links with Russian officials could have played a role

- This is a division between sections of the US ruling class

- The movement from below could exploit these divisions

- Students and workers have held further protests and strikes

away some 50,000 Haitians' right to remain living in the US.

But workers are fighting back—and undercutting Trump's lies about protecting jobs. Some 40,000 AT&T retail workers struck last Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Their demands include the firm stops outsourcing jobs in its call centres. Some 12,000 AT&T call centre jobs have gone in the US since 2010.

Mark Bautista, an AT&T worker from El Sobrante, California, said, "It's about fighting a system that's been rigged against us and way too many others for far too long."

As Trump lurches from scandal to scandal the movement on the streets and in the workplaces can damage him and any potential successor—perhaps fatally.



On other pages...

Tory wreckers release a manifesto for the richest >>Page 17

Dining with the despots

RULING CLASSES across the Middle East feted Donald Trump last weekend.

Visiting the Saudi Arabian dictatorship, he signed an arms deal worth £77 billion with the same despots who are pulverising Yemen.

Trump then travelled to Tel Aviv to hold separate meetings with the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships on Monday and Tuesday.

This is part of Trump's attempt to restart the "peace

process", which is used to maintain Israel's occupation.

Trump previously suggested that the US wouldn't mind Israel annexing the West Bank, but he is also trying to convince Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas that the "peace process" will pay off.

But there is widespread disillusion with the process, and Palestinian groups had called a "day of rage" during Trump's visit to the West Bank.

More on socialistworker.co.uk

MARCHING AGAINST austerity in Athens during last Wednesday's general strike

Greek MPs accept more austerity—but general strike shows how to fight

THE GREEK parliament backed the fourth round of austerity demanded by the European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund last Thursday.

This latest austerity package includes further slashing of pensions. Some people have seen their pensions halved.

The ruling Syriza party has been implementing austerity at the behest of the EU, ripping apart working class people's lives.

But a general strike last Wednesday showed that workers have the power to resist the plans.

Tens of thousands flooded the streets of the capital Athens as workers across the public and private sectors brought the country to a standstill.

Workers' Solidarity journalist Giorgios Pittas told Socialist Worker, "MPs can vote this through, but we have the power to

stop them on the streets and in the workplaces.

"Workers across the public and private sectors are saying we need to fight."

Ship workers struck for four days from last Tuesday.

Doctors stayed out for an extra 24 hours after the general strike and council workers struck this Monday and Tuesday.

Grounding

Air traffic controllers struck for four hours last Wednesday, grounding scheduled flights across Greece.

The Poesy journalists' union also organised a 24-hour strike.

Giorgios told Socialist Worker that bus workers in Thessaloniki are on all-out strike.

Women shop workers came out for the first time last Wednesday against Sunday working hours.

Migrant agricultural workers led one of the marches last Wednesday to join thousands of people in Athens city centre.

Protesters converged on Klauthmonos square for a rally called by various trade unions.

The strikes and rallies sent a clear message to the government that workers will resist the new package.

People on the protest slammed the Syriza-led government for its sellouts.

Pensioner Paraskevi Tsouparopoulou said, "They told us they would end austerity and tear apart the bailouts, but they brought us disaster."

Giorios said, "People can see how Syriza's solution doesn't work. "The bailout proves to everyone that the social democratic solution doesn't work."

Thanks to Alexandra Kriti

Good stuff in Labour's manifesto

LABOUR'S education policies can help get young people out to vote. It's not often we get someone who proposes something that will actually benefit us.

The £9,250 a year headline figure for tuition fees will put people off going to university. So getting rid of them will make a big difference.

But it's also important to remember that it's not an especially radical policy.

Higher education is free in Scotland and it was free here until recently.

To those who say we can't afford it, I'd say we could afford a lot more if we hadn't spent so much on cutting corporation tax and on Trident nuclear weapons.

Conor Muller
North London

● I'M PLEASED to see that in the Labour Party manifesto there is a pledge not to frack for gas.

In a matter of weeks Sherwood Forest, Britain's most famous woodland, could be at risk.

A huge energy company called Ineos wants to explore underneath it to frack for gas.

If this goes ahead Sherwood Forest could be filled with spluttering lorries, heavy machinery and explosives by next month.

I am asking the Forestry Commission not to give the green light and to protect the forest from the destruction caused by fracking.

I'm sure Socialist Worker readers will feel the same.

John Appleyard
West Yorkshire

We need more TV like subversive Doctor Who

"THE END point of capitalism. Bottom line where human life has no value at all, we're fighting an algorithm, a spreadsheet like every worker everywhere!"

"We're fighting the suits! They take our lives, we'll take their station and every penny they make from it!"

This was one of many anti-capitalist lines from a recent Doctor Who episode.

As a revolutionary, there is a lot to be happy with in Doctor Who.



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

I backed EIS strike because college has changed my life

I AM a student and I supported the recent college lecturers' strikes in Scotland (see page 20). I started a Facebook group for students to show solidarity—and it really took off.

It encouraged students to get involved and make their voices heard.

Our education is as important as honouring the deal management agreed with the lecturers last year.

Students were messaging all the time to find out what they could do.

I feel like I was doing the job that student associations should be doing. But they weren't being as supportive as they could be—and they kept too quiet.

It's not right—they're elected by students and should have been speaking up for us.

I can't thank Socialist Worker enough for its support for the strike.

We were up against a propaganda machine. And students faced going into exams without enough teaching.

But the simple fact is if principals had honoured the deal earlier, we wouldn't have been in that situation.

Going to college has opened new doors for me and helped me develop as a person. I took up photography after a time in my life when I'd lost confidence and self-esteem.

The lecturers have given me great support, spurred me on and built my confidence.

So for me the lecturers' strike was personal. My course means so much to me.

I had a bit of a down spell at one point where I wasn't sure I'd finish. If it were not for the help and support from my lecturers, I'd likely have given up and failed.

They supported me and helped me find something in myself that I never recognised before—a passion to learn, and to achieve.

The lecturers make the colleges successful. They deserve the deal they won and I fully support them.

Cheryl Marie Healy
New College Lanarkshire

Why we should vote Labour, not Green

CALLING FOR a Green vote in certain constituencies (Letters, 17 May) misses the point about what Jeremy Corbyn's Labour represents.

What's at issue is how to build a much higher level of fightback against the Tories and bosses.

The best way to do that is to work alongside Corbyn-supporting Labour members. The Greens' "progressive alliance" with the Lib Dems is a disastrous mistake.

In Sheffield, former Green Party leader Natalie



Back Jeremy Corbyn on 8 June

Bennett is standing to the left of Labour.

But that electoral pact could mean vote for Bennett, get Nick Clegg.

In other circumstances we would rightly call for a vote for Bennett. But this

is not about individuals.

This election will be seen as a referendum on Corbyn. There should be no exceptions.

The Green Party ignores the real conflict at the heart of capitalism.

Labour also tries to reconcile the interests of workers and bosses. But it remains organically linked to the working class.

Green Party members will join protests. But the party does not focus on building a fightback among the working class.

Phil Turner
Sheffield

Just a thought...

I support the NHS pay fight

IT IS right that the RCN is calling for a "summer of protest" (Socialist Worker online, 15 May).

Nurses and NHS staff have had their pay held down. At the same time, the Tories unveil a plan to get workers to care for elderly and sick relatives unpaid for a year.

This is insulting, but a fightback can build on widespread anger in order to put the Tories on the retreat.

Nick Browne
On Facebook

Back Greek general strike

SOLIDARITY with striking Greek workers (Socialist Worker, 17 May).

Their pay alone has been cut in half by Euro banks!

@Undeafed66
On Twitter

Shut it, Len McCluskey

ON THE day of the Labour Party manifesto launch, Len McCluskey said Labour could not win the general election.

This bag of wind needs to learn when to keep his mouth shut and when to turn his militant rhetoric into action.

Jeremy Corbyn has fought a right wing Parliamentary Labour Party and the press for two years.

To have achieved the poll rating he has, and to have begun to get an echo for his manifesto pledges, is testimony to his leadership.

John Curtis
Suffolk

● ABSOLUTELY agree with this (Labour can win—if it comes out fighting, 17 May).

Let's get these rallies organised, Labour!

@coalvilledave
On Twitter

Tories hate our children

MARGARET Thatcher was the milk snatcher, Theresa May plans to take children's free lunch away!

Meanwhile taxpayers continue to subsidise each of Eton College's 1,300 full time pupils to the tune of £6,654 per year.

The Tories hate working class children.

Sasha Simic
North London



Can Corbyn overcome political disillusion?

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

ACCORDING TO the pundits working class people are abandoning the Labour Party for the Tories.

A survey last week in the liberal Guardian newspaper found that the Tories were leading among the poorer C2, D and E social groups of manual workers.

For liberals and some left wingers, this shows that working class people have moved right.

The reality is more complex—and tied up with Brexit. For example, right wingers have held up Basildon as a working class town that supports the Tories’ “aspirational” message.

The Essex town is part of the Basildon and Billericay constituency, represented by Tory MP John Barron with a thumping majority of 12,482.

But there’s little sign of Theresa May’s “great meritocracy” in the boarded up shops and run-down flats in the town centre.

Many people are angry about how their lives are being wrecked. As Bruce, a Basildon resident, told Socialist Worker, “I’m disabled and couldn’t hear anything in a workplace. But I’ve been put through a lot of interviews for my disability benefits.

Whisker

“I worked all sorts of jobs until my late 40s but now they will stop the money in a whisker.”

Built after the Second World War as one of the “new towns”, Basildon was supposed to represent progress and modernity. Its palpable decline fuels anger against politicians from all parties.

Robert, also from Basildon, told Socialist Worker, “Politicians are just as bad as each other, they just promise all sorts of things and don’t deliver them.”

“Palpable decline in Basildon fuels anger against politicians from all parties



A woman walks past boarded up units in Basildon, Essex. PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

People want a better future. For Ellen, a retired health worker, “The NHS and social care are the highest priorities for me. We need more staff and the 1 percent pay increase health workers have been offered is just an insult.”

Working class people don’t automatically blame the Tories or bosses for the problems caused by free market policies.

Contradictory

The anger is contradictory and can be pulled left or right.

It burst to the surface last summer when the overwhelming majority of people in Basildon voted Leave in the European Union (EU) referendum.

The Leave vote represented a deep anger at the base of society, with the majority of the C2, D and E groups backing Leave.

The Tories are working hard to pull that anger and disaffection in a right wing and racist direction.

Partly to do this, they have successfully pitched themselves as the party of Leave voters.

Richard explained, “I supported Leave because I just don’t agree with the EU and its rules. I’ll be voting for the Conservatives because they seem more able to sort out Brexit.”

For the first time in more than a decade there is a substantial difference between what Labour and the Tories are offering.

But the feeling that “politicians are all the same” won’t be overcome simply by telling people about Labour’s manifesto on the doorstep.

Labour has taken an awful position on Brexit that commits it to defending the EU single market—which would block its renationalisation plans—and dumping freedom of movement.

But putting forward a bold vision for a workers’ Brexit could help to pull the anger leftwards.

WHO KILLED DANIEL MORGAN?

A new book reveals fresh facts about the murder of a private detective 30 years ago. The victim’s brother Alastair Morgan spoke to Socialist Worker about the case

DANIEL MORGAN was murdered on 10 March 1987. His body was found in a car park in south east London with an axe buried in his head. His brother Alastair has been fighting ever since to get the truth about what happened.

Daniel was a private investigator who was about to lift the lid on major police corruption.

Five police investigations have failed to convict anyone of his murder. The police admitted to corrupt practices by cops in the first of the investigations.

In the aftermath of the murder a clandestine network was revealed, involving commies, bent coppers, corrupt civil servants, impersonators and computer experts subcontracted by private detectives.

And in the shadows were the people who do the establishment’s dirty work.

Alastair’s account, Untold, is published this week, co-written with Peter Jukes.

Alastair told Socialist Worker, “It’s a great relief to have the book. It’s a complicated story and I did hate writing it. It was hard to revisit some of it.

“But for me there are still very worrying and unresolved areas.

“I think Dan’s case compromised the Met to the very top of the tree. And that makes me very uncomfortable.

“The way the country’s going at the moment, the idea of having a police service that’s compromised like this, doesn’t sit easily with me.”

Daniel’s firm Southern

Investigations was taken over by the man who was supposed to be heading the investigation into his murder, Detective Sergeant Sidney Fillery.

Southern became the News of the World (NotW) newspaper’s chosen firm for investigations, legal and illegal.

As part of one of the numerous failed investigations into Morgan’s death (see box), anti-corruption officers bugged the offices of Southern Investigations.

Police have had the tapes for over 20 years—but they still haven’t all been transcribed.

Alastair said, “I think this is institutionalised corruption. We’ve got police misleading the family, police misleading Home Office ministers, police misleading parliament.

“A whole network of links between senior journalists from the NotW and senior police officers around this case.

“And the perverting of the course of justice which was going on here, people mostly don’t know about.”

Network

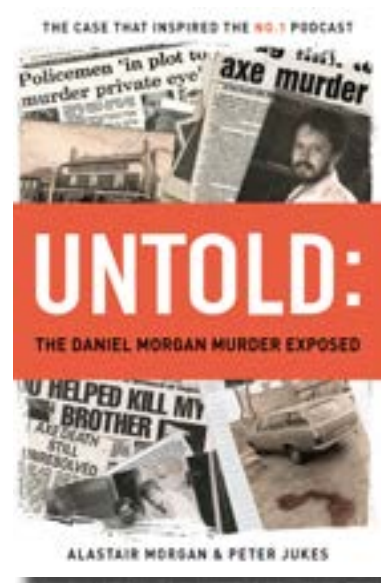
Jonathan Rees ran Southern Investigations and was the point man for running a network of corrupt police officers.

He met Daniel in the pub on the night of his death.

Newspapers, not just those published by News International (NI), used Rees’s Southern Investigations, to find out secret information.

The NotW paid him over £150,000 to obtain information.

When he was editor of the NotW Andy Coulson repeatedly hired



Untold: The Daniel Morgan Murder Exposed by Alastair Morgan and Peter Jukes £14.99 Blink Publishing

Rees—even after he was convicted for planting drugs. Coulson went on to become David Cameron’s spin doctor.

Alex Marunchak was chief crime reporter for the NotW and later the paper’s Irish editor.

Rees’s relationship with Marunchak was so close that they both registered companies at the same address.

Rees made no secret of his criminality. He once told a Daily Mirror journalist to be careful what they wrote down “because what we’re doing is illegal, isn’t it?”

THE BOOK contains new details on the case, including information on the immediate aftermath of the murder.

Also new, Alastair adds, is “the interaction between the senior levels of the police and senior levels of the News of the World.

“And the various meetings, what happened after them and what happened before them, that’s the really interesting bit. We’re fighting against

not just the police but all the tabloids as well. I had no idea of the magnitude of the problem for 20 years.

“I’m still learning new things. Police corruption needs to be looked at very closely and in particular this fusion between police and media corruption.”

The book comes after the success of a podcast about the case. Alastair was surprised by its success. “The podcast was a huge deal,” he said.

“I was amazed—I didn’t expect it to create the kind of interest it did. Years ago nobody was interested. I had no idea it would be as popular as it turned out to be.

“I found it difficult when I was writing to be the journalist and the brother at the same time. Peter has very neatly taken the cool, journalistic position out of my hands.”

Ongoing criminal cases were used as an excuse for the Leveson inquiry into the ethics of the media to put off looking at the relationship between the media and the cops.

Alastair is keen to see what is known as Leveson Two.

He said, “We had the News of the

World interfering in a 2002 investigation into the case. To me, it’s quite obvious that was an attempt to pervert the course of justice. No other sane person can look at that and think of it in any other way.”

The News of the World hired vans to carry out surveillance on the senior cop investigating the Morgan case on behalf of Jonathan Rees.

“But where was the outrage?” asks Alastair. “When it came up at the Leveson inquiry there was next to nothing in the press. Everybody was going after that bloody horse the cops lent Rebekah Brooks.”

Underbelly

He said, “One of the things that bugs me the most is media ownership in this country. That’s why I think the book is important to show the dirty underbelly of what’s been going on.

“You’ve got a handful of billionaires who own 80 percent of the press in this country.

“I think it’s a deeply unhealthy situation, it’s leading the country in a very bad direction.

“That’s another reason why I want

this story out there. I think the whole thing stinks.”

AT THIS stage the successful prosecution of Daniel’s murderer is unlikely. In January those accused of the murder lost a case claiming malicious prosecution against them.

Alastair said, “I’d like to see the full details of how this came to pass in a clear and understandable form for the public.

“And for them to understand how much this particular case has damaged the police profoundly.

“And I think that’s possibly the limit of what I can hope to achieve.

“There are still areas of darkness here. In particular in the interaction between the police and the News of the World. I still don’t know how far and deep that went.

“It still bothers me.”

After the phone hacking scandal, an under pressure Theresa May accepted demands for a panel of inquiry into the investigation of the

10 MARCH 1987

Body of private eye Daniel Morgan is found at the Golden Lion pub in Sydenham, south London.

His watch is gone but he has £1,000 in his pocket.

Six people, including police officers, are arrested in connection with the murder. No charges are brought.

1988

Inquest at Southwark Coroner’s Court returns verdict of unlawful killing.

Police Complaints Authority announces inquiry into handling of case and first murder inquiry.

1989

Three people are arrested on suspicion of murder, with two men being charged. Charges dropped.

1998-2000

Third police inquiry involves anti-corruption officers from Scotland Yard and Jonathan Rees is arrested for plotting to plant cocaine.

2002

Fourth inquiry involves Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). It offers evidence of murder but Crown Prosecution Service decides not to prosecute.

2005

Sir Ian Blair, then Met police Commissioner, admits first inquiry was “compromised” and a fifth inquiry begins.

2008-2009

Several arrested on suspicion of Daniel Morgan’s murder with trial starting at Old Bailey.

Jonathan Rees, and his brothers-in-law, Garry and Glenn Vian, are charged with murder.

Sid Fillery was charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice but eventually the crown dropped the case against him.

2011

Trial collapses when the director of public prosecutions pulls the case due to allegations of witness coaching by a detective chief inspector.

2013

Independent panel set up by the then home secretary Theresa May.

2017

Jonathan Rees, Garry and Glenn Vian and Sid Fillery sue the Met for malicious prosecution.

Fillery wins part of his claim because of the witness handling. The others lose.

No publication date set for report by Daniel Morgan Independent Panel.

murder. It has moved at glacial speed and the police have drip fed documents as slowly as they can.

However, according to Alastair, “The panel is giving us a lot of information. Originally we’d planned to publish after the panel’s report. But the panel was delayed again and again. So we decided we were going to go ahead with it.

“I’m expecting that when the panel reports, under any circumstances what they report is going to be shocking. And the police will go, ‘Yes but we’ve moved on—that was then and this is now’. It will be the standard response of, ‘Lessons have been learned’.

“But I’m not convinced by that. I’m not.”

“It’s all our own material, our own research and findings. But I wanted this to come out before the Sky bid is settled. And before any decision is made on Leveson 2. And as much as anything else, my mother is 89 years old and I want her to be able to see this.

“It’s a kind of memorial to my brother in a way.”

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Wed 31 May, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELEY

"Boy jobs and girl jobs"—why is women's oppression so deeply entrenched?

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Pride, politics and protest—fighting for LGBT+ liberation

Wed 31 May, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Can we get socialism through parliament?

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Crisis in the White House—who will gain?

Thu 8 Jun, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON

The fightback in education—how do we save our schools?

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

RD Laing and the politics of mental health

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Brexit—what effect will it have on the working class?

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

Deliveroo, Uber and the gig economy—is the working class disappearing?

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
New York Diner,
CF24 3BQ

CHESTERFIELD

After the presidential election—where next for France?

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN



The media vs Jeremy Corbyn

EDINBURGH

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

ESSEX

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
Chelmsford
CM1 2QL

HULL

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
Cafe Ilicious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre, 2-7
Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: CENTRAL

Thu 1 Jun, 6.30pm,
Room 130, UCL,
Foster Court Building,
WC1E 6BT

LONDON: HARINGEY

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd (corner
Vincent Rd), N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

OXFORD

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
Restore,
Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd),
OX4 1YH

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSHULME

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Inspire,
747 Stockport Rd,
M19 3AR

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

COVENTRY

Grammar schools, academies and free schools—what's the alternative?

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St,
CV1 3BB

DONCASTER

Crisis and the ruling class

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
The Women's Centre
(Changing Lives),
5 Princes street,
DN1 3NJ

DUDLEY

Islamophobia—what it is and how to fight it

Wed 31 May, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1EP

GLASGOW

Crisis in the White House—who will gain?

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
Avant Garde, 33-44 King
St, Merchant City,
G1 5QT

HACKNEY

Crisis in the White House—who will gain?

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd,
E5 0PU
HUDDERSFIELD
How the working class fought for the vote—a rebel's guide to the Chartists
Wed 31 May, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

LONDON: BRIXTON

Can socialism come through parliament?

Wed 31 May, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

LONDON: NEWHAM

Racism, resistance and revolution

Wed 31 May, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Is revolution possible?

Wed 31 May, 7pm,
Oxford House,
Derbyshire St (opposite
Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),
E2 6HG

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

50 years on from the Abortion Act—why we still defend a woman's right to choose

Wed 31 May, 7pm,
Chorlton Library (side door),
Manchester Rd, M21 9PN

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Did Lenin lead to Stalin?

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

MEDWAY

Trump and the drive to war—is US imperialism out of control?

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

NORWICH

What would a revolution look like?

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

The rise in automation and its impact on the working class

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd, NG1 3FN

PLYMOUTH

After the general election—where next for the left?

Wed 14 Jun, 7pm,
Quaker House, 74 Mutley
Plain, PL4 6LF

PORTSMOUTH

Alexandra Kollontai and the Russian Revolution

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Community
Centre, River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Can we reform the state?

Wed 31 May, 7pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd, YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

How can Corbyn win the election?

Thu 1 Jun, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible
Theatre), S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

A rebel's guide to Alexandra Kollontai

Wed 31 May, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd, SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

Imperialism and revolution—who was Frantz Fanon?

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

TELFORD

After the presidential election—where next for France?

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Carriages, The Parade,
Wellington, TF1 1PY

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORSET SOCIALISTS

The case against borders

Sat 3 Jun, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club, Colliton Park,
Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

LEEDS

In solidarity with the Russian Revolution

Sat 3 Jun, 10am,
Swarthmore Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

Speakers: Michael
Meadowcroft, John Newsinger,
Jill Liddington, Janet Douglas

All power to the soviets—an evening with David Rovics and others

Sat 3 Jun, 5.30pm,
The Fox and Newt Pub,
9 Burley Street, LS3 1LD

LONDON

Defend education, fight for decent housing and health services, stand up to racism

Thu 1 Jun, 7.30pm,
Hammersmith Town Hall,
275 King St, W6 9LZ.

Speakers include Christine
Blower and Andy Slaughter

Socialist Worker

[For daily updates and the stories that matter: socialistworker.co.uk]

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The Liar's Quartet—a history of cops, spies and struggle

Comedian Mark Thomas' new book brings together three plays with stories that should be heard but are rarely told, writes **Jasmine Francis**

ACTIVIST AND comedian Mark Thomas' new book, *The Liar's Quartet*, features three plays.

The first is *Bravo Figaro!*, a touching story reflecting on his relationship with his dad. Cuckooed, the second, is the story of him as an activist for Campaign Against Arms Trade and finding out one of his best friends was a corporate spy.

Cuckooed gives an insight into the cruel and undemocratic operations of corporations and the police. It includes real stories from others with similar experiences, including one woman who found out her partner was a police spy.

The stories are shocking and awful but it's not completely surprising how low the state and corporations will go to maintain the system.

They will allow someone not only to spy on a campaign, but to begin close relationships with activists and cause emotional trauma.

Mark rails against this interference with the democratic right to protest. It highlights how democratic Britain is if we can't express our political views without fear of being spied upon.

There are constant reminders of the police as protectors of the state.

Red

This is particularly clear in *The Red Shed*, the third play. It's about Mark's experience of the Miners' Strike and it shares its name with the Labour club in Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

In this final play, he takes us on a journey back to when he visited miners' picket lines, recalling the police beating everyone with truncheons.

He also makes links with the state's role in the 1989 Hillsborough disaster and to the policing of resistance today.

We hear how police intervened in the bakers' union's protests against McDonald's use of zero hour contracts and how our taxes pay to protect a company that evades tax.

It is amazing to read about the Miners' Strike, the battle they had against the Tories and how important solidarity in struggle is. And struggles today show the strength of workers and the necessity to resist.

Scattered throughout are contributions by friends and fellow activists that are an interesting read. Stories rarely told but that should be heard.

I'd recommend this to any avid Tory hater. It's an easy, enjoyable read and a clear reminder of the brutal Tory legacy that underlines why we should get them out and fight for Jeremy Corbyn's policies.

We don't want five more years of those bastards.

The Liar's Quartet by Mark Thomas is out now. September Publishing, £9.99

Design & propaganda



BORIS IOFAN'S Palace of the Soviets, 1933

PICTURE: SHCHUSEV STATE MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE

How Stalin debased design of revolution

EXHIBITION

IMAGINE MOSCOW

The Design Museum
224–238 Kensington High St,
London, W8 6AG.
Until 4 June, tickets £10/£7.50
designmuseum.org

IMAGINE MOSCOW takes six architectural projects to show how the Russian Revolution shaped the way people thought about the world. Only one was ever fully realised, but each has a unique interpretation of what the revolution meant.

New cultural movements thrown up by the revolution bled through into popular culture.

Constructivist fabric designs and Suprematist porcelain designs nestle among larger pieces in the exhibition.

In a section on industrial manufacturing design are several examples that borrow heavily from Vladimir Tatlin's Monument

to the Third International.

The exhibition starts with El Lissitzky's "Iron Cloud" design for colossal "horizontal skyscrapers" to encircle central Moscow.

They were to be a solution to chronic overcrowding due to rapid population growth.

But they were also a metaphor for humans lifting themselves out of feudal misery and mastering the world around them.

Grotesque

Perhaps the most grotesque piece, other than designs for revolutionary leader Lenin's mausoleum, is Boris Iofan's Palace of the Soviets from 1933.

Iofan's work in general moved away from design inspired by the revolutionary process and back towards classical architecture.

The palace was to be taller than the Empire State Building in New York, with a 100-metre statue of Lenin on top.

The history of the Palace of the

Soviets itself serves as a metaphor for the historical processes unleashed by the bureaucratic counter-revolution led by Joseph Stalin.

Stalin blew up the Russian Orthodox cathedral that stood on the site. Construction started in 1937, was halted by the Second World War, and the site later turned into a huge swimming pool by Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev. Finally in 1994 a replica of the original cathedral was erected on the site.

The exhibition begins with an account of Lenin's orders to tear down all the Tsarist and religious iconography and ends with a room dedicated to his deification by the Stalinist dictatorship.

On display is the great hope brought by the revolution and its gross debasement by the bureaucratic counter-revolution.

If you have a free afternoon, don't miss the chance to see this exhibition before it finishes.

EXHIBITIONS

THE PARTISAN COFFEE HOUSE

Four Corners, 121 Roman Rd, London E2 0QN.

Until 27 May. Free.

Open Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm.

fourcornersfilm.co.uk

THIS TELLS the story of the Partisan Coffee House, founded by radical historian Raphael Samuel, cultural theorist Stuart Hall and others.

It includes unseen photographs by Roger Mayne, with designs by graphic artist Germano Facetti and letterpress printer Desmond Jeffery, archive material and film clips.



From the exhibition below

BANNERS FOR SPAIN: FIGHTING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR IN LONDON

Islington Museum,

245 St John St,

London EC1V 4NB.

Until 8 July. Free. Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri and Sat: 10am-5pm

THE FIGHT against the fascists in Spain in the 1930s had an impact across Britain. With artefacts from the Marx Memorial Library's archives and stories of the Islington International Brigaders, this exhibition showcases six newly-conserved banners for Aid Spain.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- Russia 1917—workers' revolution and the festival of the oppressed**
Dave Sherry
- The equality effect**
Danny Dorling
- Bob Marley—roots, reggae & revolution**
Brian Richardson
- Unravelling capitalism**
Joseph Choonara
- October—the story of the Russian Revolution**
China Mieville

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bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

1917 RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

MOST OF the media and mainstream politicians don't think much of ordinary people.

MPs talk of how important they are because the rest of us are too uninformed to make big decisions ourselves.

Even in a general election we're told only wealthy politicians and unelected bureaucrats know how to run society.

But 100 years ago the Russian Revolution proved that all wrong.

In 1917 masses of down-trodden people organised to look after themselves, run their own workplaces—and eventually take charge of society.

This was done through the “soviets”—councils based in working class districts made up almost entirely of workers and soldiers.

Soviets first sprang up during the 1905 Russian Revolution—and again during the revolution of February 1917. Workers had to organise to direct and defend the revolution.

When the Tsarist regime collapsed the capital city Petrograd had fallen to the revolution. Workers and soldiers, through the soviets, controlled the city.

Even the liberal and capitalist politicians had to defer to the soviets.

Petrograd

The US socialist journalist John Reed, who reported from Russia during the revolution, wrote that the politicians “had no connection with the revolutionary masses.

“They were obliged to appeal to the representatives of the workers and soldiers—in other words the council.”

Each soviet was made up of delegates elected by workers based in factories or soldiers' garrisons.

Many followed the example of the soviets in Petrograd.

There, some 1,200 delegates made up the Petrograd Soviet—and these came from smaller soviets based in each district.

They met every two weeks and elected a central executive committee of 110 members. Twice a year soviets across Russia would send delegates to an “All-Russian Congress”.

This giant soviet meant workers and soldiers could debate and organise the revolution together. Any group of workers could organise and demand representation.

The atmosphere of these meetings shines through in



A MASS meeting in the Putilov Works in Petrograd during the Russian Revolution

WHY DID ‘SOVIETS’ MATTER?

Workers set up their own councils (“soviets”) during the 1917 Russian Revolution. They became alternative organs of political power and the basis for workers running society



Tsar Nicholas II

the records of those present. Historian Sukhanov described one of the first meetings of the Petrograd soviet.

He wrote, “The Hall had never seen such an invasion of such people.

“Cigarette ends were already scattered among the nice clean desks. Men sat in their caps and fur coats. There were glimpses here and there of rifles and other military equipment.”

Workers, peasants and soldiers would share their



The Hall had never seen such an invasion of such people

experiences of revolution. Sukhanov wrote that visiting peasants “uttered their stormy, heroic hymns to the revolution.

“They excited the audience, took possession of it, and somehow illuminated it, welding it into one by the heroic emotion of the revolution.”

One visiting soldier told the Petrograd soviet that when they heard the news of the revolution, “We began yelling ‘Hurrah!’ and singing.

“Well! The Germans were

only a about as far away as that—or perhaps a bit more.

“They heard us and yelled over, ‘Hey, what have you got over there?’ We yelled back, ‘We have got a revolution! No more Tsar!’”

Throughout most of 1917 the soviets rivalled the power of Russia's capitalist Provisional Government that had replaced the Tsar.

The revolutionary Bolshevik party demanded “All power to the soviets”. It saw the soviets as the basis for a new kind of socialist society where power was based in workers' organisation.

The Bolsheviks called for insurrection to destroy the Provisional Government, leaving the soviets in full control—something workers achieved in October.

Some people today say that the soviets were taken over and used by the Bolsheviks to crush genuine workers' democracy.

But the soviets created one of the most democratic and free societies the world has ever seen. It only later, under Joseph Stalin's counter-revolution, that power was taken by a growing bureaucracy.

The All-Russian Congress elected Central Executive Committee became the soviet government's “parliament”.

DECISIONS made by the central committee were valid throughout Russia. But, as John Reed wrote, in local areas the district soviets were in charge and “their authority is practically supreme”.

That was because “the local soviets created the central government”.

This meant that delegates could be recalled immediately if workers weren't happy with them.

Delegates could be replaced if they didn't stick to the programme they were elected on.

So the make-up of the soviet government could change very rapidly depending on the decisions of workers.

That's why Bolshevik control in the soviets would have been impossible if the majority of workers didn't support them.

In December 1917, shortly after the soviets had taken control, a demonstration of supporters of the previous government was fired on by the soviets' militia.

Many workers saw this as a mistake, therefore within 12 hours several Bolshevik delegates to the Petrograd soviet were recalled. They only got back weeks later when support for the Bolsheviks returned.

Although the Russian Revolution was crushed, the soviets show us what genuine democracy can look like.

Those who claim that such a society is impossible are often those same people who tell us we can't have a say in our own society today.



The Petrograd workers' council brought together hundreds of workers

Workers organised in the factories and took control

ALONGSIDE the soviets, workers had to take control of their own workplaces too.

Factory committees also sprung up in many workplaces shortly after the February Revolution.

Like the soviets, these came about through necessity.

Some bosses fled during the February Revolution, or simply disappeared with the government if the factory was publicly owned.

In other factories, bosses stayed on but tried to sabotage the revolution with lockouts or by disrupting production.

Petrograd

So workers had to organise to take control of production within the factories themselves.

Factory workers elected delegates to the committees from among themselves.

These were key to winning demands such as the eight hour working day.

But their power could be much more far reaching.

In some factories the workers were even in control of the hiring and firing of employees.

They oversaw everything

that went in and out of the factory gates.

Where workers were in control, they employed the same “experts” to help them run the factories as the bosses—or they quickly learned how to do it themselves.

US socialist journalist John Reed wrote how in one textile mill, workers learned to trade the cloth they made with others in the city.

Petrograd

One Petrograd boss warned his workers that he would shut his torpedo factory down.

This was because they didn't have enough of a certain part, which was made at a factory just across the river.

The chair of the factory committee said, “I'll get them”, and went to straight to the committee of the factory across the river.

“Comrades, if we don't get the tubes in two days our torpedo department will have to close.

“Four hundred boys will be out of a job.”

The committee arranged it so that the parts went straight to where they were needed, and the factory stayed open.



John Reed (top) wrote extensively on the Russian Revolution. Vladimir Lenin was one of the leaders of the Bolshevik party at the time of the 1917 revolution (below)



Socialist Worker COMMENT

Would the fat cat bosses let us renationalise services?

Labour's manifesto commitments to nationalising some industries would meet resistance, argues **Sadie Robinson**

LABOUR LEADER Jeremy Corbyn's nationalisation plans have generated howls of rage from the right. Labour has pledged to renationalise the railways, water firms, the National Grid and Royal Mail.

The Tories dismissed this as “nonsensical” while Josh Hardie of the bosses' CBI group said Labour's manifesto was “past its sell by date”.

But nationalisation—where the state runs services—isn't unrealistic, rare or even radical.

Every major industry in Britain has at some point been run by the state. The state ran Royal Mail until 2013 and the railways until 1993. The East Coast Mainline was successfully run under public ownership between 2009 and 2015.

Bailouts in 2007 and 2008 partly or fully nationalised the biggest four banks—Royal Bank of Scotland, HBOS, Lloyds TSB, Northern Rock and Bradford & Bingley.

The ruling class doesn't always oppose nationalisation because it can suit its interests.

Unemployment

In the 1930s some Tories backed nationalisation to tackle high unemployment.

After the Second World War, much of the ruling class accepted nationalisation to restructure the economy, cut their losses—and avoid a revolt.

But currently our rulers are mostly wedded to the free market. They want private firms to run industries and services—and for private sector bosses to reap the profits.

Billionaires like Richard Branson of Virgin Trains or the bosses of Southern rail would strongly resist any nationalisations from a Corbyn government.

Look at what happened in 1974. Labour was elected promising to “bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power” in favour of the working class. Bosses

NATIONALISATION SUITS the ruling class sometimes

BACK STORY

Corbyn's promises to nationalise industry are welcome, but are not the same as socialism

●Nationalisation means that the state runs services

●A majority of people in Britain think the railways should be renationalised

●But we need democratic control as well as state ownership

engineered a run on the pound, where investors sell their sterling, and the government backed off.

It signed up to spending cuts demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and imposed savage attacks on workers.

In Greece the left wing Syriza was elected in 2015 promising to end austerity. But it buckled under enormous pressure from bosses' groups, including the IMF, and carried on making cuts.

Bosses can try to sabotage governments by threatening to take money out of the system or refusing to invest. Banks can downgrade countries' credit ratings, piling pressure

on governments. If the rich really feel their position is challenged, they will use force to try and protect it. Ruling classes have used the state—the police, army and so on—to overthrow governments that challenge their interests.

But that doesn't mean the struggle is hopeless.

Working class people can form a force that is much more powerful than our rulers' sabotage. Bosses rely on workers to make their profits. By collectively taking action, workers can defeat the bosses.

Overthrow

The ruling class in Venezuela tried to overthrow left wing leader Hugo Chavez in 2002. But ordinary people mobilised to stop it.

In Britain in the early 1970s the Tories attacked pay—provoking unofficial action, strikes and occupations that ultimately brought the government down. There were more than 200 factory occupations between 1972 and 1974.

Corbyn's nationalisation plans are important and welcome. They would raise questions about who owns and controls what in our society.

But state control of services doesn't mean ordinary people are in charge, because real power lies outside parliament.

A Corbyn-led government would be a huge slap in the face to the rich and powerful.

We are for that—but we need more too. The rich will always come back to attack us, even if they are beaten in the short term.

Let's fight for a society where we get rid of them for good.



State control of services isn't enough to transform society

Property sharks—‘we won’t solve the crisis’

by ALISTAIR FARROW

PROPERTY speculators and landlords came together at the Royal Institution in London last Thursday. They discussed plans to push out the poor to make way for their profit-driven redevelopment projects.

Speakers at the invite-only event were candid about their plans for the private rental sector (PRS).

Barry Coltrini, from Essential Living, revealed, “PRS as a product is not there to solve the housing crisis. It’s there to provide a product and choice.”

Debra Yudolph, a partner at Say Property Consulting, chipped in, “It’s difficult to gentrify places without excluding the people that should remain there.”

Market

Developers want to get into the “buy to rent” market rather than building homes and selling them on.

While development company bosses are working out how to make the fastest buck, tenants across London are



WORKING CLASS people are pushed out for redevelopment projects for rich to cash in on

fighting to keep their homes.

Naila Choudhury spoke to Socialist Worker about how she’s fighting the redevelopment of huge swathes of public land in Brent Cross, north London.

The redevelopment threat-

ens some 217 homes, some rented, some owned. Two housing associations are set to take control of the new homes being planned.

“The council is being deliberately vague about what rights we have in terms of

returning to the area,” she said, describing how residents are getting organised.

“We’ve been putting through objections to the proposals. I think consultations the council held with residents have been misleading.

“They’ve been giving out incomplete information.”

Naila and other tenants have taken petitions round the affected estates and got other residents to fill out a questionnaire. That includes the question, “Do you want to

transfer from council ownership to housing associations?”

A majority of tenants and residents have said no.

A key step in the campaign is 26 May—the date the council is set to submit planning proposals to push through the redevelopment.

Petition

Campaigners want to get their petition against the proposals submitted by then.

“We wanted a public meeting with a representative from the council and the developers but they made excuses why they couldn’t meet us,” said Naila.

“Last Saturday we went ahead with a public meeting anyway. There was a big turnout.

“They want to meet us one by one and entice us with offers but they haven’t discussed how our rights will be affected by going into the arrangement.

“But if we all come together it will have more of an effect. We need to block this from an early stage.”

For more information and links to campaigns, go to demolitionwatchlondon.com

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Tory wreckers release a manifesto for the richest

Theresa May tried to pitch her manifesto as progressive with false promises on the NHS and schools. Nick Clark unpicks the attacks that they're planning

THE Tory manifesto is a bosses' and racists' charter full of pernicious attacks on workers and migrants' rights.

Launching it last Thursday, Theresa May set out a series of fake promises such as building "affordable homes" and investing in the NHS.

But most of the manifesto is guff and rhetoric—and most of the promises in it are predictably nasty.

The Tories want to force anyone who needs social care in their own home to pay for it if they have assets worth more than £100,000.

Social care is already means tested. Currently only people with assets, including their home, of less than £23,250 can get full state funding for a care home.

If people only need care in their own home, the value of their house is excluded from the value of their "assets".

Now the Tories want to include it. While the threshold will be higher, this will force more people to pay for social care.

May said her scheme was the "first proper plan to pay for social care". But the Tories have slashed billions from social care budgets.

Unpopular

The proposals were so unpopular that within days May had issued a "clarification" which dumped elements of the plan.

Plans to give people the "right" to a year of unpaid leave if they need to care for relatives are far from generous. How many of us could afford to take a year off without pay?

The Tories want the responsibility for care to rest on ordinary people—not the state.



THERESA MAY takes aim at workers with a raft of planned attacks

The Tories also want to start means testing Winter Fuel Allowance, which would see some ten million elderly people losing the benefit.

All pensioners can currently get up to £300 during the winter.

May now wants to restrict it to those pensioners in fuel poverty, who spend more than 10 percent of their income on energy bills.

On immigration the Tories are even nastier. May blamed migrants for "depression of wages and displacement of jobs" and reiterated the Tory promise to reduce immigration

to the tens of thousands.

She said she would raise the Immigration Skills charge to £2,000, a levy that's paid by bosses who employ migrant workers from outside the EU.

Controls

May's manifesto pledges new controls to reduce the number of migrants from the European Union (EU).

While not specified in the manifesto, this could mean extending racist measures that already affect migrants from outside the EU to all migrant workers. May already wants

to make migrants pay more for health care.

The Tory manifesto says they will increase the Immigration Health Surcharge to £600 for migrant workers and £450 for international students.

They want to increase the income threshold for migrant workers who want to bring their partners to Britain.

They will "toughen visa requirements" for international students and introduce "new, higher requirements" on students who want to stay after their studies.

Services left in bad health

THE TORY manifesto promises to increase NHS funding by £8 billion "in real terms" over the next five years.

But that's nothing compared to the £22 billion worth of cuts they want to push through by 2020-21.

The Tory manifesto also suggests that "no schools will have their budget cut" due to a new funding formula.

It even says the Tories will increase school funding by £4 billion by 2022.

But as the NUT teachers' union points out, that's just £1 billion a year when schools face a £3 billion real terms cut in their funding.

NUT general secretary Kevin Courtney said, "Schools already need £2.2 billion more just to



Striking for decent school funding

cover the impact of inflation and cost increases imposed by the government."

The Tories want to pay for their "increase" by taking away universal free school meals from children aged four to seven.

They want to build 100 more hated "free schools," which are publicly funded but privately run.

A labour of lies for workers

IN HER manifesto launch speech, Theresa May promised "a higher National Living Wage and proper rights and protections at work".

But behind the fanfare, there's nothing to get excited about.

The Tories say the minimum will increase to 60 percent of median earnings by 2020.

This is currently forecast to be £8.75 an hour.

But the "generous" new promise frees them up from previous Tory chancellor George Osborne's promise of £9 an hour by 2020.

The Tories pledged themselves to help so-called self-employed workers in the "gig economy".

They said they'd be "properly

protected". But the manifesto doesn't say what this actually means.

The gimmick of appointing a boss to advocate for workers on company boards is a bad joke.

Meanwhile, May promises to keep employment rights guaranteed by European Union law. She wants to let us keep what little workplace rights we already have and be glad about it.

But a promise to cut "red tape" for bosses doesn't bode well.

Neither does a vow to "continue the difficult but necessary work of restoring our public finances".

That means more wage freezes for public sector workers, and attacks on terms and conditions.

Pensions will pay the price

YOUR state pension will almost certainly be worth less under the Tories.

Theresa May has pledged to scrap the "triple lock".

It guarantees that the state pension will rise annually by whichever is highest—price rises, the rise in average earnings or by 2.5 percent.

They would scrap the 2.5 percent guarantee.

Coming to a field near you

THE Tories want to make it easier for fracking bosses to drill near you.

Plans to relax regulations will make drilling easier. They want to snatch back local authorities' power to block fracking operations.

But May's manifesto says they can only develop fracking "if we maintain public confidence" in it.

Unluckily for her fracking is widely hated.

Tax hike for the poorest people

MAY'S manifesto paved the way for higher taxes on the poor.

It drops the cap on national insurance, VAT and income tax—leaving them open for rises in the future.

IN BRIEF

Fascist is chased out of Brighton

AROUND 50 anti-fascists turned out in Brighton to see off French Front National candidate Tony Thommes.

Thommes had intended to host a meeting to galvanise support among Brighton's expatriate French community in the run-up to the parliamentary elections.

Protesters blockaded the pub where the meeting was and police escorted Thommes out of Brighton.

Postponed housing protest over HDV

A DEMONSTRATION against the redevelopment of seven estates in the north London borough of Haringey has now been pushed back to 3 July.

This is to coincide with a council cabinet meeting to vote on the Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV).

This is a joint venture between Haringey council and property development firm Lendlease. The firm is responsible for the social cleansing of the Aylesbury estate in south London.

Strikes held back for new BMW offer

THE UNITE union called off three 24 hour strikes at BMW car plants last Wednesday to consider a new offer.

Workers had been set to strike over the closure of their final salary pension scheme.

Unite has given no details of the offer. A spokesperson said there will be "different outcomes for different people and their pensions".

A ballot on the offer runs until 9 June and the union is not recommending a vote for it. The strike ballot is still live and it should be used.

A vote for change in Unison NEC election

A BROAD left slate has done well in the national executive elections in the Unison union.

It stood on a platform for "a national coordinated response by the full force of Unison against cuts, privatisation, pay freezes, attacks on terms and conditions and to defend our NHS". Full results at unison.org.uk/news

Spanish migrants protest against PM

DOZENS OF migrants from the Spanish state gathered at the Spanish embassy last Saturday to call for prime minister Mariano Rajoy to resign. Protesters marched in Madrid to demand the same.

Spain's governing Tory Partido Popular party has presided over rampant corruption while implementing austerity.

Acts such as this protest defy attempts to blame migrants for undercutting wages and conditions.

Hector Puente Sierra

COLLEGES



WORKERS AT Lewisham Southwark College protesting against job cuts last Wednesday. Bosses have proposed redundancies that would cut 85 jobs

PICTURE: HAROLD WILSON

WAREHOUSE WORKERS

Argos workers strike to defend conditions

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEVANS

ARGOS warehouse workers defied bosses' legal threats to begin a two-week walkout at five depots across England last Wednesday.

The Unite union members are fighting the threat of a "culture of outsourcing".

Steve is the Unite union convenor at the Basildon warehouse in Essex. He told Socialist Worker, "We have got solid support with around 90 percent of members out here, and it's similar at the other sites."

The union is demanding that bosses guarantee workers' terms, conditions and union rights if they are outsourced.

Argos bosses are trying to transfer up to 400 workers from their Lutterworth warehouse to subcontractor Wincanton Logistics in Kettering.

There is a danger bosses could push this attack through across the company.

As a first-time striker told Socialist Worker, "We're obviously worried that it could happen to our site."

"I joined the union after the last dispute two years ago because of things like this."

Workers said that their terms and conditions had already been eroded over the years.

As another rep told Socialist Worker, "I've worked here for 21 years and the conditions

have got worse over the years.

"They're changing things to make us do more, moving us about to do different jobs because we're all multi-skilled."

Now workers worry that their rights could be eroded more through outsourcing.

Solid support among the workers is one of the reasons bosses tried to block their action.

The company "felt" the ballot was illegal, but declined to provide in writing to the union of what their claim was.

As bosses seek to take another legal challenge this week, trade unionists need to build solidarity for their fight. ■ Send messages of support to mark.barter@unitetheunion.org

ELECTRICIANS

Bosses attack sparks reps

HUNDREDS OF electricians across the Crossrail project in London "cabined up" on Monday morning at the Canning Town, Holborn and Mile End shafts.

The action was over the victimisation of three elected stewards and a safety rep.

The employment agency On-Site refuses to recognise the elected Unite union reps.

The shafts are controlled by the main contractor SRW—

Skanska Ashleigh Weatherfoil.

The lead contractor Skanska is one of the blacklisting firms that admitted its involvement in the Consulting Association blacklist last year.

The Blacklist Support Group issued a statement on its Facebook page. It said, "Blacklisting is still going strong in construction but the rank & file are fighting back. Workers' rights is a general election issue".

HOUSING WORKERS

Strikes call for pay equality

HOUSING workers in Manchester have continued their strike for equal pay for doing the same job this week.

They are striking Monday, Thursday and Friday each week until the pay gap, which is as much as £3,500, is closed.

Monday's strike saw

workers protest outside Northwards Housing's head offices at Hexagon Tower in Crumpsall Vale.

Bosses are also attempting to introduce a new contract which would see them working longer hours for the same pay.

It would also introduce flexible working.

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

PCS prepare to fight back

A ROLLING wave of strikes at the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) entered its second week on Monday. Members of the PCS union at the EHRC office in central London began a five-day walkout.

The strikers are fighting against cuts which saw eight workers at offices across Britain sacked by email.

One EHRC worker at PCS conference in Brighton this week said the sackings were "disgraceful behaviour".

EHRC workers in Glasgow held a five-day strike last week.

The Cardiff office walks out next week, followed by Manchester from 5 June to 9 June.

Speaking to delegates at PCS conference, Manchester EHRC worker Maurice Shaw said strikers had been "overwhelmed by messages of support".

But he appealed for more support throughout the rest of the strikes.

"If we lose, it means that every civil service department will see and think, 'If the EHRC can get away with it, we can get away with it,'" he said.

JOBCENTRE CLOSURES

WORKERS AT a Sheffield Jobcentre were set to strike next Thursday against their office closure.

The closure will badly affect benefit claimants.

Delegates at PCS conference pledged to resist Jobcentre closures and to oppose all compulsory redundancies.

A PCS rep told delegates, "our preference is not to fight alone but to fight with other offices across the DWP."

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka encouraged branches to organise strikes because successful campaigns "give everybody hope".

DWP group executive committee member Sam Hall said the office closures were "the greatest threat to our members' jobs for many years. An industrial action campaign will be fundamental to the success of ending office closures."

■ More on socialistworker.co.uk

CINEMA WORKERS

Workers at Picturehouse protest for a Living Wage

by ALISTAIR FARROW

PICTUREHOUSE cinema chain workers held a demonstration outside the Cineworld parent company's AGM last Thursday.

They are demanding the Living Wage as well as maternity, paternity and sick pay. They also want recognition of their union, the Bectu arm of Prospect.

Company chair Tony Bloom told workers the firm would be willing to meet so long as negotiations took place in "good faith".

But workers are determined to win their demands.

Bectu has rebaloted five of the six sites involved in the dispute. The result at four of the sites was a 96 percent yes vote on a 56 percent turnout.



Ritzy workers on strike

The Ritzy in Brixton, south London, voted 94 percent yes on a 72 percent turnout.

The East Dulwich site, which has a live ballot, is set to strike on 27 May.

Ben Lennon from East Dulwich told Socialist Worker, "The mood is really positive. This is about all underpaid workers."

● Support the strikers at livingstafflivingwage.tictail.com

LSE WORKERS

Cleaners take on bosses

CLEANERS EMPLOYED by outsourcing firm Noonan at the LSE university were set to continue their strike for equal pay and conditions on Wednesday.

United Voices of the World (UVW) union general secretary Petros Elia told Socialist Worker, "We will not give up until our demands are met." Outsourcing firm

Noonan has said to cleaners, "We respectfully ask you not to participate in strike action as it will damage the reputation of LSE."

But the workers' message is starting to get traction in the mainstream press.

Columnist Owen Jones refused to cross the picket line, and other academics have joined the boycott.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Council workers' ballot may see 70,000 walk out

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

EIS Fela union president John Kelly had a simple message to council workers wondering how to get a better pay rise from council chiefs. "Striking works," he told Socialist Worker after the college lecturers' victory (see page 20).

Council workers across Scotland are currently balloting for strikes against another derisory pay offer. They should use these words as a spur to get the vote out among their 70,000 Unison union colleagues.

Glasgow Unison rep Stuart agreed. "The lecturers' action is exactly what is needed right now," he said. "They've shown that coordinated national action does work—that's what we need to do in local government.

"In Unison we need to deliver a big vote for action. The 1 percent offer is a pay cut—the cost of living has increased by more than that."

Many of the issues that fuelled the college dispute, such as funding cuts and soaring workloads, are transferable



GLASGOW COUNCIL It workers on strike last year

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

across the public sector. Norah thought this is what lay behind the "doubling of numbers at our members' meetings recently".

The Unison rep said, "I think it is the context of unrest over the pay offer,

people feel undervalued."

"We can take inspiration from the lecturers' victory," she added.

The ballot ends next Tuesday—workers should vote now and vote to strike.

Workers wait on union to call strike

UNISON UNION members working for children's social work teams at Kirklees Council warned regional union officials last week to sanction their vote to strike or they will resign from the union.

The workers met last Thursday after yet another failure to make any progress in their dispute.

The row is over pay, workload, IT systems, accommodation, agency staff, management bullying and travel plans.

The social workers voted overwhelmingly to strike on 14 and 15 June. But they were still awaiting a response from the union as Socialist Worker went to press—five days later.

RAIL WORKERS

Rail walkouts can pull brakes on DDO

TRAIN GUARDS on Southern, along with their RMT union colleagues on Northern and Merseyrail, were set for a coordinated 24-hour rail walkout next Tuesday.

The strike is to defend safety from the Tories' driver only operation (DOO).

The Aslef drivers' union also announced it will reinstate an overtime ban from 4 June after talks with bosses at the Tories' favourite rail firm—Southern owners Govia Thameslink Railway—broke down.

The fight against DOO is also about accessible travel for all provided by trained workers.

When the walkouts happen, back the strikers fighting for public railways—and back Corbyn on 8 June so we can push to get rid of these parasites sooner.

JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS

Final submissions in Grainger inquiry

CLOSING submissions were made last week to the public inquiry into the shooting of Anthony Grainger by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) in March 2012.

Anthony's family's spokesperson said, "Had this operation been run properly and competently, it is clear Anthony would not have been shot."

No weapon was found in the car after the shooting on 3 March 2012.

The closing submission from Anthony's family described how GMP had attempted "a cover up."

The family's solicitor told the inquiry that documents had



Anthony Grainger

been destroyed, cops' accounts were embellished or incorrect and police were allowed to make joint statements.

He also slammed the officer who shot Anthony. "On Q9's own account, none of the officers were at imminent risk of being shot by Anthony laterally, he said."

The officer (V53) who shot Mark Duggan met those who were involved in Anthony's death. Q9's submission states, "V53 was qualified to give welfare advice and that is all he gave to Q9." There is no written or audio record of this meeting, and its occurrence only came to light during the course of this inquiry.

Eleanor Claxton-Mayer

EDUCATION

SCHOOLS

West Ken out to stop cuts

TEACHERS AT Avonmore Primary School in West Kensington struck on Wednesday and Thursday of last week against cuts.

The NUT union members are fighting redundancies. They voted unanimously for the action.

One striker told a London rally last week, "The head and the governing body have not listened to staff.

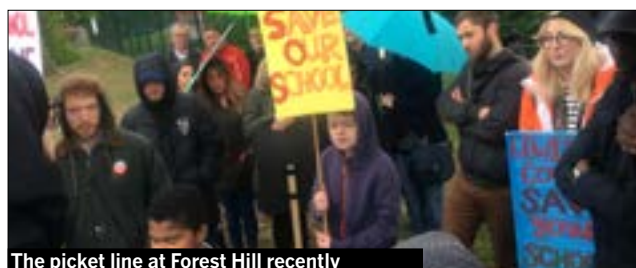
"There has been no effort made to justify the cuts."

Three workers, including two teachers could lose

their jobs. Strikers say this will threaten the quality of education given to children, and other changes will hurt those with special educational needs.

Teachers gave a letter to parents before the strike explaining the dispute.

It said changes to how children with special needs are supported would not be "helpful for children or staff". These changes include abolishing the post of Special Needs Co-ordinator.



The picket line at Forest Hill recently

Forest Hill strike called off

WORKERS AT Forest Hill School in Lewisham, south east London, have suspended planned strikes this month while students take exams.

The NUT union members are fighting a £1.3 million cuts

package that would damage education and transform the nature of the school.

Teachers at the school could strike after the exam period if the dispute is not resolved.

School's out in London

■THE KINGSLEY Academy in Hounslow, west London, was hit by a strike on Tuesday of this week.

NUT union members are fighting compulsory redundancies and rising workloads.

■NUT union members are balloting for strikes at Drayton Green Primary School in Ealing, west London.

They are in dispute over plans to transfer teachers to an academy employer.

The ballot ends on Thursday.

■NUT union members at Newham Sixth Form College in east London struck on Tuesday of this week.

The walkout was the start of planned escalating strikes over six days.

Workers are fighting Tory cuts to school funding.

NHS CAMPAIGNS

Essex NHS protest

UP TO 1,000 protested last Saturday in Southend against Tory plans to cut the local A&E.

The downgrading is part

UNIVERSITIES

Conference to vote on action

THE GENERAL election will influence debates at the UCU union's annual congress in Brighton this weekend.

The big arguments will be around jobs, pay and pensions.

Several universities are lining up to go for huge restructuring and job cuts.

The Higher Education Bill lies behind this. Bosses are also using Brexit as an excuse.

In further education (FE) the focus is on more skills training for workers.

Pay and pensions will be big

Day of action

THE LONDON region of the UCU union has called a day of action on Wednesday of this week, calling on people to "vote for education" on 8 June.

Union members are organising activities at colleges and universities on the day. There will be a rally at Old Palace Yard opposite parliament at 5.30pm.

issues. We're being offered pay rises below inflation.

In higher education (HE) the USS pension scheme for members in pre-1992 institutions is also being revalued.

The union has to organise national action to defend members. That's popular. But implementing it will be hard.

The union is in favour of national action if it can get a national vote. We need to confront the anti-union laws.

Carlo Morelli

Activists are campaigning to end tuition fees in FE and HE and to reverse the Higher Education Bill. They also want a return of Education Maintenance Allowance.

●Go to bit.ly/2pSuA18 for more details

●UCU MEMBERS at Manchester Metropolitan University were set to strike on Wednesday and Thursday of this week against cuts that put 160 academic staff and others at risk.

of NHS England's Mid Essex and Southend "Success Regime", a guise for pushing through attacks.

Lara Roberts told the Echo, "So many people showed up and this shows just how

much discontent there is."

These are a forerunner to the Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

Under the "Success Regime" Basildon hospital would be the acute hospital

for the area, while Southend and Broomfield will both be downgraded.

Health campaigners have warned that making people travel longer distances could put patients' lives at risk.



PART OF the victory rally in Glasgow last Saturday

PICTURES: DUNCAN BROWN

COLLEGE STRIKE WINS A VICTORY

by **RAYMIE KIERNAN**

COLLEGE LECTURERS in Scotland held a victory rally last Saturday after their bosses "crumbled" in the face of an escalating national dispute.

The mood in Glasgow's George Square was buoyant. Bosses' refusal to honour a pay deal 14 months ago provoked six walkouts, which only grew in strength.

Management was forced to honour the deal on Friday of last week and in return lecturers suspended strikes as talks on conditions continue.

One lecturer quipped that the downpour at the start of the rally was "management's tears".

The lecturers' EIS union general secretary Larry Flanagan told lecturers it was a "victory to be proud of".

He added, "Management provoked a dispute that they thought would crumble. They thought escalating action wouldn't happen. The truth is, they've crumbled."

Student Kelly told the rally, "Lecturers have taught us how to stand up for what

is right and stand strong together, no matter how hard the media and management try to divide us."

Flanagan warned that bosses "better get used to the new adjustment". He said, "This union is stronger than it was six weeks ago."

Picket lines saw new faces as strikers gained confidence from the action.

Stronger

"Our pickets got stronger every day," said Eileen, the New College Lanarkshire (NCL) EIS Fela branch secretary.

"People not normally active in the union have been very active and they want to do more."

"The union is going from strength to strength, management have actually done us a big favour."

EIS Fela president John Kelly told Socialist Worker, "At the start we had people asking what a picket line was and what happened on it."

"But then they started turning up in huge numbers. They started bringing drums, accordions, tambourines. One of the colleges had well



Strikers say their union is stronger after the walkout

“Hang tough, hang together. Use your strength and you will win”

over 200 on the picket one of the days.

"We even had a picket line in Benbecula [in the Outer Hebrides]. As far as I know there has never been such a thing."

Years of bosses squeezing workers' pay while feathering their own nests fuelled anger.

Susan from West College is still furious that bosses' perks and bonuses "are on the back of our hard work but we're not recognised".

One principal in Glasgow is paid more than Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon.

As one South Lanarkshire lecturer put it, "If you run something within a country then surely you shouldn't get paid more than the person that runs the country."

Stalled

Promises of national bargaining six years ago from the Scottish National Party (SNP) government stalled while massive cuts took place.

The fact is it took a national strike last year to finally force a deal.

Then 14 months of backtracking by bosses saw little, if any, intervention from the SNP. That has exposed the party in many strikers' eyes.

Last week right wing education minister John Swinney sided with bosses and said the union should suspend the strikes.

But this backfired, caused more anger and the strike continued the next day.

NCL lecturer Alison said, "The SNP were just ripping the piss. Swinney's speech made people angrier."

"I've voted SNP before but I

won't again. I think they'll lose thousands of votes over this."

During the strikes, lecturers lobbied SNP MSPs, protested at their offices and at the Scottish parliament demanding the SNP government intervened.

This pressure was crucial, John thought.

"You've got to work on a number of fronts," he said. "And you've got to work on the political. This dispute got settled by politicians in the background."

The SNP now wants to take credit for the deal but as Eileen said, "There is no doubt that our action was the biggest factor in securing a deal."

"The lesson is hang tough, hang together. Use your strength and you will win."

The battle isn't over. Talks are ongoing over conditions and there are likely to be more attempts by bosses to claw something back.

But one thing is certain—striking works.

On other pages
Thousands march for education >>Page 6